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**BOX PATENT APPLICATION**

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

RE: *U.S. Patent Application Entitled: METHOD AND SYSTEMS FOR DEPLETING rRNA POPULATIONS - by Murphy et al.*

Commissioner:

Transmitted herewith for filing is a 98-page patent specification including 85 claims and an abstract. Also included are Figures 1-8 on 48 sheets and a 47-page sequence listing. The specification and drawings constitute the application of George L. Murphy and J. Penn Whitley for the captioned invention.

Also transmitted herewith is a diskette containing the computer-readable form of those sequences in the specification, a Statement as Required Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.821(f), and a separate paper copy of the sequence listing.

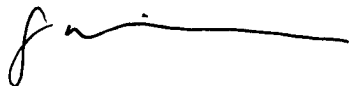
**Applicants claim small entity status.**

Please note that this application is filed without an inventors' Declaration and Assignment, a Declaration Claiming Small Entity Status, a Power of Attorney, and filing fees. Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(b) and (f), the Applicants request that the Patent and Trademark Office accept this application and accord a serial number and filing date as of the date this application is deposited with the U.S. Postal Service for Express Mail. Further, the Applicants request that the NOTICE OF MISSING PARTS-FILING DATE GRANTED pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(f) be sent to the undersigned Applicants' representative.

Commissioner for Patents  
December 20, 2001  
Page 2

Please date stamp and return the enclosed postcard to evidence receipt of this application.

Respectfully submitted,



Gina N. Shishima  
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Encl.: As stated

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